



March 3,

Written testimony of Penni Martin, Administrator, and Hebrew Center for Health and Rehabilitation, West Hartford, CT in support of H.B. No. 5194 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING REGISTRATION OF TEMPORARY NURSING SERVICES AGENCIES.

Good morning Senator Miller, Representative Garibay, and to the distinguished members of the Aging Committee. **My name is Penni Martin. I am the Administrator at Hebrew Center for Health and Rehabilitation in West Hartford, Connecticut. Hebrew Center for Health and Rehabilitation has been providing nursing home care in our community for over 40 years. We are a 257 nursing home, and we have 300 employees working at our facility.** Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support on H.B. No. 5194 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING REGISTRATION OF TEMPORARY NURSING SERVICES AGENCIES.

H.B. No. 5194 would establish a temporary nursing services agency annual registration requirements and would prohibit such agencies from providing services in Connecticut unless it registers under this process by January 1, 2023. We support the registration provision in H.B. No. 5194, however we believe that much more is needed to curtail the pricing practices of temporary nursing service agencies in Connecticut.

Hebrew Centers staffing challenges have intensified due to the nursing staffing agencies offering outrageous rates to nurses and nursing assistants. For example, nursing aides rates range between \$26-\$55 an hour, LPN rates range from \$44-\$112 an hour and RN rates \$64-\$112 an hour. The agencies are creating a bidding war between facilities asking what rate the facility is willing to pay and whoever offers the most money gets the staff member. Facility staff are not picking up overtime/extra shifts as they are going to work for the agencies. This is leaving the facility short staffed resulting in a barrier to accept patients for admission.



Accountability, continuity of care and overall quality is suffering as labor prices are soaring for our Connecticut nursing homes due to the practices of nursing pool agencies. Our nursing homes report that they are literally forced to use nursing pool agencies in ever-increasing numbers due to the staffing shortages. The consequences are severe for clinical and consistent assignment of care reasons, in addition to the unfunded escalating costs being experienced. Moreover, nursing home report that nursing pools routinely hire away staff from the nursing homes and sell them back to the nursing homes at many times the costs.

For these reasons, CAHCF is urging a more detailed legislation that would require the Department of Social Services would determine annually the limit for the rate for service provided by temporary nursing service agencies. For the period beginning July 1, 2022, or upon passage of the Act, whichever is earlier, and ending June 30, 2023, we would recommend that the rates be set in statute as follows: \$30.00 for a CNA, \$45 for an LPN, and \$60 for an RN.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify on the bill as drafted. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Penni Martin, Administrator